



CLEARFIELD, PA.

Wednesday Morning May 1, 1861.

The News.

We have taken special pains to give our readers the latest news from the seat of war in as intelligent a shape as possible.

What relates to affairs South of Washington must be taken with many grains of allowance. A week ago, according to the "reliable information," twenty thousand Southerners were within 24 hours march of Washington.

It is said to be a "poor rule that work both ways." Be this as it may, we are quite sure there are some rules that certain people will only permit to work the way they want them.

Why, Republicans and Republican papers, it seems, are permitted to say about what they please without incurring the displeasure of these Censors of public opinion in the slightest degree.

John C. Breckinridge, who has heretofore been quoted as a staunch Union man, has at last come out in his true colors, and agrees to rebel 10,000 men from Kentucky to the rebel army.

But, we at least doubt the truth of the above paragraph. The last notice of Mr. Breckinridge that we have met with, was that he had addressed his fellow citizens at Lexington, Ky., in which he took ground against the secession of Kentucky at this time, but to make one more effort to save the Union.

Does this make him a traitor? But why is Mr. Breckinridge singled out for such bitter denunciation? If the object was not purely mischief, why is "honest John Bell of Tennessee allowed to escape?"

Congress.—The President having issued his proclamation, convening Congress on the 4th day of July next, special elections will have to be held in the following States, if they desire to be represented therein.

We presume no elections will be held in any of the seceded States. Whether the border Slave States will order elections to be held has not yet been fully determined by the proper authorities.

Extra Session of the Legislature.

In obedience to the proclamation of Gov. Curtin, the Legislature of Pennsylvania met in extra session yesterday, for the purpose, as we surmise, of putting our State on a complete war footing.

We cannot see why the regular session was allowed to close on the 18th April, (only two weeks ago,) as that was much earlier than is usual, and the unsettled condition of the country was well understood by the Governor and members then as now.

Was this done under an absolute necessity on the part of a majority of the members to visit their families? Or was it done for the purpose of securing to themselves extra pay and mileage? The people may inquire into this matter hereafter—that is, provided we are to be blessed with a hereafter.

Our State Treasury has been largely depleted during the late session, and at the same rate it will not take long to finish up the job. The passage of the act allowing the Banks to issue small notes to an amount not exceeding twenty per cent. of their capital stock, will be of great benefit to those institutions.

We have had quite a surfeit of legislation of doubtful propriety; and these war times will doubtless afford a pretext for quite an increase thereof.

Among the first and principal objects for convening the legislature at this time, is the passage of a Stay law. Unless this is done, scarcely one business man in an hundred will be able to weather the storm.

Destruction of Government Property at Norfolk, Va.

New York, April 23d, 1861.

The steam tug Yankee has arrived from Norfolk. She reports that on arriving at Norfolk on the afternoon of the 17th, finding that there was a movement on foot to seize her, she proceeded to the navy yard, and took protection under the guns of the battery. On the 18th the custom house officers of the State came to seize the Yankee, but the commander refused to yield her up.

The Yankee then towed the United States sloop of war Cumberland to Fortress Monroe.

The United States steamer Peace, under command of Commodore Paulding, on her arrival at Fortress Monroe, took on board the Third Massachusetts Regiment, and proceeded to the Navy Yard. On arriving there they found that the United States officers had commenced the destruction of the public property, in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy.

The steamer Peace, assisted by the steamer Yankee towed out the Cumberland, and after passing the navy yard, sent up a signal rocket, when the match was applied and in an instant the ships, slipshouses, storehouses, and workshops were all in flames; and so rapid were they, that Commodore Rogers, of the navy, and Captain Wright, of the engineers, were unable to reach the rendezvous, where a boat was waiting for them, and they had to be left behind. Besides the buildings, there was a valuable stock of provisions, cordage, and machinery.

Among the most valuable property destroyed are the following Government vessels: Ships-of-the-line, Pennsylvania, Columbus, and New York; Frigates, Delaware, Merrimack, and Potomac; Sloop-of-war, Germantown, and Plymouth, and the Brig Dolphin; carrying about 350 guns in all.

With the blowing up of the dock, the burning of the Navy Yard, and all the other government property at Norfolk, will result in a loss to the government of at least \$16,000,000. The policy of this act on the part of the government will be more fully realized and explained in the future. A three months invasion by a foreign enemy could not have cost the government and people more than this destruction of the public property at Norfolk and Harper's Ferry, by the officers in charge.

PAY OF THE TROOPS.—The following from an exchange paper, gives the rate of pay allowed in the army of the United States, to which the militia is entitled when called into service:

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Pay. Columns include Colonel (\$95), Lieutenant Colonel (\$80), Major (\$70), Captain (\$60), First Lieutenant (\$50), Second Lieutenant (\$45), Brevet Second Lieutenant (\$45), First or Orderly Sergeant (\$16), Other Sergeants (\$15), Corporals (\$18), Privates (\$8), and Musicians (\$9).

The first column of figures represents the net monthly salary, and the second, includes rations, forage, &c.

Officers are required to provide their own uniforms and equipments, but the men are clothed and armed by the Government.

On the first of January 1860, the regular army consisted of 1,083 commissioned officers, musicians, artificers, and 11,848 privates, being a total of 12,931.

Awful Catastrophe!

We learn by the Venango Spectator, that a dreadful explosion has taken place in the oil regions, at which eleven persons were burned to death, and about twenty dangerously injured.

The fire burst for 70 hours when the men succeeded in putting it out. It is supposed that at least 1,400 barrels of oil were consumed, and the well is now yielding twenty barrels per hour.

On Wednesday the 17th ult., an explosion and fire occurred at the well of Little & Merrick, the melancholy results of which have thrown a gloom over our entire community. This well is on the Buchanan farm, on Oil creek, 3 miles from the mouth and about 10 miles from the Borough. About 5 o'clock the workmen employed at the well struck a very heavy vein of oil which instantly commenced flowing over the conductor at the top of the well. The immense force of the gas threw out the oil in unprecedented quantity; generally estimated at the rate of 100 barrels per hour.

The flow of oil was not checked by the explosion, but continued in a stream of about four inches in diameter, spreading over the ground and being ignited as it fell—adding a dense smoke and sheets of flame to the horrors of the scene. At the top of the jet of oil a steady intense white flame rose to the height of 30 or 40 feet with shoots of fire above that, to the height of 100 feet. About one hundred barrels, which had just been filled, were soon burst by the heat and added their contents to increase the fire.

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PENNSYLVANIA, SS.

WHEREAS, An armed rebellion exists in a portion of the States of this Union, threatening the destruction of the National Government, periling public and private property, endangering the peace and security of this Commonwealth, and inviting systematic piracy upon our commerce;

And whereas, Adequate provision does not exist by law to enable the Executive to make the military power of the State as available and efficient as it should be for the common defence of the State; and the General Government;

And whereas, An occasion so extraordinary requires a prompt exercise of the Legislative power of the State; therefore I, ANDREW G. CURTIN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby convene the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, and require the members of the Senate and House of Representatives to meet in their respective Houses, in the Capitol at Harrisburg, on TUESDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, at 12 o'clock noon of that day, and there to take into consideration and adopt such measures in the premises as the exigency may seem to them in their wisdom to demand.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Commonwealth to be affixed at Harrisburg, this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-sixth. By the Governor, ELI SHELFER, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

COMPARATIVE TARIFFS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. J. SMITH HOWARD, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York and W. B. DANA, Attorney at Law, editors of the "MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE AND COMMERCIAL REVIEW," New York, have prepared for that work, and published also in a pamphlet form, the TARIFF OF THE UNITED STATES, adopted March, 1861, to which is appended, for the first time, an alphabetical list of all articles, showing the comparative rates of duty according to the Tariffs of the years 1842, 1846, 1857, and 1861, thus showing, at a glance, the contrast in each article, to the rate of duty at each date; to which is also added "A HISTORY OF EACH TARIFF FROM 1789 TO 1861," showing who were the prominent men in Congress who advocated or opposed each tariff. The views are given, in a condensed form, of General Hamilton, Messrs. Madison and Jefferson; Ingham, Wright, Buchanan, Stevenson, of Pennsylvania; Pickens, Webster, Dwight, Davis, of Massachusetts; Randolph, of Virginia; Clay, of Kentucky; Foote, of Connecticut; Mallory and Cullamer, of Vermont; Cambreling and Silas Wright, of New York; Mitchell and Burgess, of Rhode Island; Calhoun, Drayton, Hayne and Hamilton, of South Carolina; Wilde, of Georgia, and other prominent statesmen.

To which are also added, I. A Table showing the Duties levied by each Tariff since 1789, upon SIX LEADING HEADS OF IMPORTS. II. A Tabular View of the Votes (by States) on each Tariff from 1789 to 1861. III. New Commercial Regulations of the United States. The whole in a pamphlet of 126 pages, octavo. Price 25 cents.

THE ST. PAUL FLOOD.—The St. Paul papers furnish accounts of the great flood which has been prevailing in that section for some time past. Many villages on the Minnesota river have been submerged, and this great tributary of the "Father of Waters" has been so high before within memory of that mythical individual, the "oldest inhabitant." The width of the Mississippi below St. Paul averages 600 yards; it has already reached three miles. The waters however, began to subside on the 17th inst.

THE WAR NEWS!

From Baltimore.—The New York and Massachusetts Troops—Troops at Richmond—Erection of a Battery at Yorktown—4,000 Troops at Harper's Ferry and 3,500 at Norfolk—Schooner seized—Conservative feeling in Baltimore.—The Baltimore Sun.—The Stars and Stripes flung to the breeze in Baltimore, &c., &c.

PERRYVILLE, Md., April 26—11 1/2 P.M. The Baltimore Sun of this morning received here, says that a passenger train left for Washington yesterday morning, but on approaching the Annapolis Junction found the Federal troops lining the road. The train put back, the conductor apprehending that it would be seized.

The Seventh New York Regiment and part of the Massachusetts volunteers took up the line of march from Annapolis on Wednesday morning, and arriving at the Junction at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, left for Washington. The train returned to the Junction at 4 o'clock p.m., and again left with the Massachusetts Regiment. On the arrival of the Seventh Regiment at Washington they marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the President's House and from thence to the War Department.

Six thousand volunteers are in Richmond ready for service. The Virginia troops are erecting a battery at Yorktown, and another one three miles above Richmond.

The steamer Jamestown is being fitted up at Richmond for a war vessel. Four thousand troops are at Harper's Ferry, and 2,500 at Norfolk, and it is said there will be 25,000 at Richmond by the close of the week.

The schooner Annie J. Russell, with a cargo of wheat for a Massachusetts port, has been seized at Richmond.

It is reported that the troops at Harper's Ferry have been ordered to another point and it is supposed will move to a position near the Capital.

The Baltimore Sun has a leader which seems to indicate that a conservative influence is gaining ground in Baltimore.—The Sun emphatically declares it is not a secession paper. It advocates the calling of a State Convention elected directly from the people. The same paper denies the stories of violence done to Union men in Baltimore.

PERRYVILLE, April 26.

The communication with Baltimore is becoming much improved. The steamer which left at one o'clock this afternoon arrived here just as the evening train was about to start for Philadelphia. It was boarded in the stream by the Captain of the Fairy, which brought the passengers to Perryville, among the passengers going North are five Maine, timbermen, ordered out of Virginia. They report that three schooners, the Gen. Knox, Victory and Georgia, of Maine, had been seized in the Paruka river, Virginia. Cannon had been placed on board the Gen. Knox, and the secession flag hoisted. The men were ordered to leave on Saturday, and placed under guard. They obtained a pass from Governor Letcher out of the State, but were stopped frequently at Baltimore. Being intercepted by the troops, they appealed to Gen. Trimble personally, who expressed regret that travelers were interfered with, and protected their departure.

Intelligent men from Baltimore express confidence that the secession mob rule will soon be overturned. The leader of the Sun to day is regarded as the most favorable symptom, and an index of future events.

A gentleman declared publicly, in a parlor at Barnum's hotel, that the secession flag would not be allowed in that city many days.

The most indisputable evidences have been received to night of a powerful reaction of public sentiment in Baltimore. A gentleman whose veracity can not be questioned states that before he left this morning he was gratified to see the stars and stripes flying over the Minute Men's headquarters and Butcher's Hill.

The silence of the Union men seems to have been more powerful than clamor would have been, and the rabid secessionists have defeated their own purposes.

There is a great feeling among the business men for the re-establishment of trade, and their silent conservatism is gradually changing to unionism. There is no doubt as to this state of affairs.

One of the passengers left Washington at 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when all was quiet. There was no news of importance. He had heard nothing there of the rumor that Lord Lyons had appealed to President Lincoln for an armistice of 60 days.

He witnessed the arrival of the seventh N. Y. Regiment on the afternoon of his departure. All the regiment reported well. They had built a bridge on the road, and repaired the rails.

While the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment was moving to Washington an order was received to stop at the Junction and guard that point.

Interview with the President

[From the Baltimore Sun April 23d.] We learn that a delegation from five of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Baltimore, consisting of six members of each, yesterday proceeded to Washington for an interview with the President, the purpose being to intercede with him in behalf of a peaceful policy, and to entreat him not to pass troops through Baltimore or Maryland. Rev. Dr. Fuller, of the Baptist church, accompanied the party, by invitation, as chairman, and the conversation was conducted mainly between him and Mr. Lincoln, and was not heard entirely by all the members of the delegation.

Dr. Fuller expressed the opinion that that the Northern States would constitute an imposing Government, and furnish revenue, but our informant could not follow the exact turn of the remark.

The conversation turning upon the passage of troops through Maryland, Dr. Fuller expressed very earnestly the hope that no more would be ordered over the soil of this State. He remarked that Maryland had shed her blood freely in the war of Independence, she was the first to move the adoption of the Constitution, and had only yielded her clinging attachment to the Union when the blood of her citizens had been shed by strangers on their way to a conflict with her sisters of the South.

Mr. Lincoln insisted that he wanted the troops only for the defence of the capital, not for the invasion of the Southern States. "And," he said, "I must have the troops, and mathematically, the necessity exists that they should come through Maryland. They can't crawl under the earth, and they can't fly over it, and mathematically they must come across it. Why, sir, those Carolinians are now crossing Virginia to come here to hang me, and what can I do?"

In some allusion to the importance of a peace policy, Mr. Lincoln remarked that if he adopted it, under the circumstances, there would be no Washington in that—no Jackson in that—no spunk in that? Dr. Fuller hoped that Mr. Lincoln would not allow "spunk" to override patriotism.

Mr. Lincoln doubted if he or Congress could recognize the Southern Confederacy. [And we suspect that such a Congress as the next will be, with all the Southern States out of it, is not likely to recognize it.] With regard to the Government, he said "we must run the machine as he found it." And in reference to passing troops through Baltimore or Maryland, he said, "Now, sir, if you won't hit me, I won't hit you."

As the delegation were leaving, Mr. Lincoln said to one or two of the young men, "I'll tell you a story. You have heard of the Irishman, who, when a fellow was cutting his throat with a blunt razor, complained that he haggled it. Now if I can't have troops direct through Maryland, and have them all the way round by water, or marched across out-of-the-way territory, I shall be haggled."

Letter from Secretary Seward.

The following letter was addressed, to Governor Hicks, of Maryland, by the Secretary of State:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, April 22, 1861. His Excellency Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your communication of this morning, in which you informed me that you have felt it to be your duty to advise the President of the United States to order elsewhere the troops of Annapolis, and also that no more troops be sent through Maryland; and you have further suggested that Lord Lyons be requested to act as mediator between the contending parties in our country to prevent the effusion of blood.

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of that communication, and to assure you that he has weighed the counsels which it contains with the respect which he habitually cherishes for the Chief Magistrate of the several States, and especially for yourself. He regrets, as deeply as any magistrate or citizen of the country can, that demonstrations against the safety of the United States, with very extensive preparations for the effusion of blood, have made it his duty to call out to which you allude.

The force now sought to be brought through Maryland is intended for nothing but the defence of this capital. The President has necessarily confided the choice of the national highway which that force shall take in coming to this city to the Lieutenant General commanding the army of the United States, who, like his only predecessor, is not less distinguished for his humanity than for his loyalty, patriotism, and distinguished public services.

The President instructs me to add that the national highway thus selected by the Lieutenant General has been chosen by him, upon consultation with prominent magistrates and citizens of Maryland, as the one which, while a route is absolutely necessary, is further removed from the populous cities of the State, and with the expectation that it would therefore be the least objectionable one.

The President cannot but remember that there has been a time in the history of our country when a General of the American Union, with forces designed for the defence of its capital, was not unwelcome anywhere in the State of Maryland, and certainly not at Annapolis, then, as now, the capital of that patriotic State and then, also, one of the capitals of the Union.

If eighty years could have obliterated all the other noble sentiments of that age in Maryland, the President, would be hopeful, nevertheless, that there is one that would forever remain there and everywhere. That sentiment is that no domestic contention whatever, that may arise among the parties of this Republic, ought in any case to be referred to any foreign arbitration, least of all to the arbitration of an European monarchy.

I have the honor to be, with distinguished consideration, your Excellency's most obedient servant.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

FROM THE SOUTH.

[From the Harrisburg Patriot & Union.] A Jewish clothing merchant, from New York, who arrived in this city last evening, says that he was in Richmond for a week, and that he seen all the troops there and those which passed through during that time. Accustomed to judge of masses of men moving together in a military form, he thinks that 5,000 is a high estimate of all he saw march through or that were stationed there.

A young New Yorker, who had gone South, and was at Fredericksburg upon commercial business, saw two companies march from there for Dumfries, a small town not far from Alexandria.

An agent from New York of Adams' Express company, and who had been driving from Charleston at the siege of Fort Sumter, after various adventures of stirring interest, reached Richmond on his way North, and as the city was under martial law, he could not get out of it without a pass from Gov. John Letcher. We saw

that and various others of the same character written upon a loose paper, without date or place attached to them.

Passengers from Washington, who left there on Thursday at 2 P. M., report that they saw the Eighth Massachusetts, Sixth Seventh, and Sixty-ninth New York Regiments march up Pennsylvania Avenue.—The New York Seventy-first was expected during the evening.

The Annapolis Junction road, was held by three Pennsylvania regiments, who would advance to the Capital as soon as reinforcements arrived from Philadelphia.

John A. Ford, formerly a resident of Philadelphia, and well known there, was arrested as he went to his place of business in Petersburg, on last Saturday morning, and taken before a committee of safety. He was tried, and although the crowd cried out "limb him!" "limb him!"—meaning hang him—but he gave the masonic sign of distress, and prominent persons interferred, got him away to Blanford. He lay all day Sunday concealed in a grave yard. On Monday getting his only daughter, a sprightly little child of five years old, he started to Richmond, leaving behind him in his stationary establishment about eight thousand dollars worth of property.

He thinks the secessionists design to try their hand at the reduction of Fort Monroe before they try to reduce Washington. If they can get together a large enough army, they may attack both simultaneously. The reduction of Monroe would give them control of all the Chesapeake Bay waters; without it the entrance to every inlet, creek and river can be controlled by the Federal Government.

Monroe has a force of 1,800 men within its walls. The Baltic was lying in the stream on Tuesday night with 1,000 men ready to reinforce the fort. Gen. Scott intends to place 5,000 men in it.

Mr. Brown, also a resident of Philadelphia in former years, and lately a resident of Norfolk, declares that the burning of the Pennsylvania was the grandest sight he ever saw.

On Sunday Henry A. Wise made a speech to an excited crowd of Norfolkites from the balcony of a hotel, telling them that Lieut. Gen. Scott had resigned, and that Lincoln had been made drunk by the extreme republicans in order to issue the proclamation calling upon volunteers, and that if the Virginians were firm Lincoln would finally yield.

Mr. Brown says further that leading secessionists about Norfolk predict with confidence that Jeff. Davis will eat his dinner upon the 4th of July in the White House. They are guilty of many similar extravagant expressions. In his opinion the flower of the upper class is now in the field, and if they suffer a severe reverse in the first great encounter, they will never be able to rally under the blow.

The Border State Convention.

It seems that arrangements have been made for holding a Convention on the Border Slave States at Frankfort, Ky., on next Saturday, 4th inst. In reference to this Convention, a late number of the St. Louis Evening News has the following:

This body is to meet at Frankfort, Ky., on Saturday the 4th of May next. Missouri has appointed delegates to represent her in it; so has Tennessee; a canvass at this moment going on in Kentucky for the election of delegates; Virginia will appoint delegates to represent her; and it is hoped that Maryland, Delaware, and North Carolina and Arkansas, will also be present in the persons of authorized representatives.

To give the convention the influence and dignity which it deserves, and to enable it to speak with all the power and authority of the six millions of People of the Border slave States, every one of these States ought to be represented in it, and the entire eight should act as one unit.

The North is united; the South is united; why should not the centre also be united? Why should not the Border slave States, to whom peace is all in all, and to whom war would be utter destruction, assert their individuality, repel the enticements and defy the threats of both the hostile antagonists, and declaring for neutrality, declare also that they will treat as an enemy whoever violates that neutrality by trading on their soil?

If the Frankfort Convention shall act with a true perception of, and wise regard for the interest of the States it represent, it will be an important body, potent for good. It will have the power, even yet, to arrest the March of the opposing, and avert the terrible conflict that will take place, if the combatants meet and cross swords. If it resolves to maintain the soil of the Border States inviolate, and to oppose by the force of arms if necessary the progress of the army of either power, across that soil—they will, by this means place a wide strip of sacred territory between the hostile Northern and Southern armies, and thus prevent a general internal strife, in which the centre of the Union would become the common battle ground.

The contest between the North and South thus driven from the land, would have to be fought out on the sea, by means of privateers. It would be a mere extra-Union contest, in which the parties alone would suffer and even they not severely, since neither would have the power to inflict any serious blow upon the other, and both after a time, becoming weary of the fruitless and resultless strife, would agree to cease from it, and to settle the dispute by treaty.

If the Frankfort Convention then would avert a general war, in which the Border States would be ground to powder and made a weltering desert—if it would protect the true interests of those States—let it cast aside all considerations of impracticable technical duty, declare the eight border slave States neutral ground, and, if need be, draw the sword to defend that position.

STAMPEDE OF MARYLAND SLAVES

HARRISBURG, April 26, 1861. It is reported that an attack was made by Marylanders on Hanover, York county, on Tuesday last, occasioned by a great stampede of negroes. Reliable accounts say that whole families are crossing into Adams, York and Franklin counties, in this State. A report places the total loss of slaves by Maryland since the troubles begun at five hundred. Great fears are entertained in the border counties of the departure of the entire slave population.

"Ain't it wicked to rob dis chicken root Dick?"

"Dat's a great moral question Gumbo; and we hain't no time to argify it now; hand down anoder pull."